



Date: October 21, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending October 21, 2005

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending October 21, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP #7

Personal Preparedness: Be in the Know! Five Days of Self-Reliance Elements to an Emergency Preparedness Plan

Communication: Phones

- Long-distance phone lines often work before local phone lines are restored so identify an out-of-state contact for your family.
- Make sure family members and friends have the number and call it as soon as possible after the disaster.
- Provide the contact person with names and numbers of the people you want to keep informed of your situation.

For a complete guide to planning and preparation, and Emergency Preparedness Tips #1-6, visit www.longbeach.gov.

NEWS UPDATE

On October 18, Long Beach faced a communications crisis when a software error at Verizon's central office failed, disrupting phone service for 12 hours to more than 150,000 customers in Long Beach, southeastern Los Angeles County and western Orange Counties.

The City's Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) was activated at 2:30 a.m. when Fire and Police dispatchers realized that the number of calls was significantly reduced and started investigating. They quickly realized that the phone lines were down and the notification of local Verizon personnel, City management, Mayor O'Neill and Councilmembers was started.

The City's internal phone system continued to work, as did some cell phones. However, blackberries with electronic messaging, phones, pagers and radios did not work. Internet connections were also down. Police and Fire handheld radios allowed for public safety communication.

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NEWS UPDATE (continued)

As early as 4:00 am, City Public Information Officers at the ECOC began notifying media of alternate phone numbers, encouraging people to use cell phones to call 911, which connected the California Highway Patrol to the City's dispatch center, or to call 435-6711. A press conference was held at 1:30 at the ECOC.

Additional police and fire personnel were deployed throughout the city to assist those who did not have cell phones and needed assistance. A team of volunteer ham radio operators went to 17 of the largest nursing homes to communicate with medics, hospitals and first responders. The Boy Scout Explorer, Search and Rescue unit, which trains with both police and fire personnel, were on patrol. People in need of assistance were advised to flag down LB Transit drivers who had radio links to public safety dispatchers.

LBTV Channel 8 ran information from 9:00 am – through 4:30 pm. News was broadcast throughout the day on TV and radio, including KKJZ 88.1 and NPR. The City's home page and employee page were updated for employees, as information was made available.

A regional economist predicted that the loss of phone service in Long Beach, southeastern Los Angeles County and western Orange County cost approximately \$20 million in business losses.

The good news?

- The City's ECOC worked as planned and crucial City departments including Technology Services, Public Works, Fire and Police worked together as a team.
- There was no major incident.
- The City's top management provided leadership at the ECOC throughout the day.
- The public did not panic, which enabled police and fire to direct services where necessary.
- Verizon had three representatives at the ECOC providing information.
- Long Beach Transit was a crucial part of the team.

This event demonstrated that the City's emergency planning and training paid off. It did not prevent the crisis, but it did minimize it. The public is encouraged to attend the Community Disaster Preparedness Forum 2005 at the Convention Center on Saturday, October 29 at 9:00 am to learn more about emergency preparedness.

Long Beach Gas & Oil

On October 1, at the direction of the City Manager, the Departments of Long Beach Energy and Oil Properties were consolidated into one new department, the Long Beach Gas and Oil Department. Gas and oil production are normally paired together, consequently, both LBE and DOP have interaction with many of the same companies and agencies, such as Thums, Tidelands Oil, the State Lands Commission, and the smaller local gas and oil producers. The consolidation will allow more flexibility in ensuring that resources and personnel meet core services.

Harbor

Ocean Boulevard Street Closure

As part of a \$65 million Ocean Boulevard construction project, a key interchange at the center of Terminal Island will be shut down from **7 p.m. Friday, October 21, until 5 a.m. Monday, October 24**. Throughout the weekend, motorists and truckers will not be able to drive directly between downtown Long Beach and San Pedro. Visit www.longbeach.gov for more information.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On October 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, in cooperation with Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and the Cultural Diversity Congressional Council, hosted the *1st Annual Cultural Diversity Celebration*, with more than 100 people in attendance at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Guests were entertained by various cultural performances and speeches and sampled a variety of cultural dishes.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

City Manager, Police, Fire

A Community Disaster Preparedness Forum will be held on **Saturday, October 29**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Long Beach Convention Center, Promenade Ballroom. Participants can learn how to reduce hazards, connect with vital resources in the community, look at disaster equipment, talk to local decision makers, meet experienced first responders, and learn how to be self reliant, how to make Long Beach neighborhoods a safer place. The event and parking at the Convention Center is free to all participants.

Health and Human Services

The City of Long Beach is developing a strategic plan, *Within Our Reach: A Community Partnership to End Homelessness*, to prevent and end homelessness in Long Beach. A series of community Focus Group meetings are being held to obtain public input. The next focus group meeting is on **October 24**, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Avenue. Visit www.longbeach.gov for details.

Harbor Department

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has released for public review and comment the draft version of an environmental impact study on a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at the Port of Long Beach. Copies of the draft environmental impact study can be reviewed at the Port Administration Building, City Clerk's office and local libraries, or at www.polb.com. Public hearings will be held on the following four dates at 6 p.m.:

Nov. 14	City Council Chambers	Nov. 30	Millikan High School
Nov. 15	Jordan High School	Dec. 1	Cabrillo High School

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Flu Vaccine: Health and Human Services

The public is encouraged to make reservations for the Senior Clinics to be held on the following dates by calling 570.4270:

October 25	Senior Center	November 10	Health Dept.
October 27	Houghton Park	November 15	Health Dept.
November 1	Gold Star Manor	November 17	Health Dept.
November 3	El Dorado Park	November 18	Cal Rec Center

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

An informational workshop on the Long Beach Airport will be held on **Monday, October 24**, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Ave. Long Beach's aviation history, Web Track—the Airport's Internet Flight Tracking System, general Airport updates, volunteer opportunities, and the availability of free tours will be discussed. The workshop will be conducted in English with Spanish and Khmer translation available. Call 570-1010 for details.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

A *Child's Haunted Garden* arts program will be held on **Saturday, October 22** at Rancho Los Cerritos from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Children in Grades 1-5 will hear spooky tales, participate in a scavenger hunt through the natural haunts of the Rancho's historic gardens, create ghoulish clay ornaments, creepy headbands, and ghostly paintings, and enjoy Halloween treats. Call 570.1755 to make reservations.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

Halloween Carnivals will be held at 14 of the City's local parks on **Monday, October 31**, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Youth will enjoy spooky mazes, bouncers, activities, cakewalk, and arts and crafts. A total of more than 2,000 youth and family members are expected to attend.

AWARDS

Community Development

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald awarded Jesse Johnson, Diversity and Economic Opportunity Officer, with the Congressional Community Service Award at the *1st Annual Congressional Community Services Awards* ceremony. Mr. Johnson received this distinguished award for his commitment to the local diverse business community and his current and previous involvement in numerous local events and community-based organizations.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

Citywide, Police Officers responded to 700 priority one, 1,536 priority two and 1,294 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,530 calls for the reporting period.

The final deadline for Police Recruit was October 19. Approximately 1,281 recruit applications were submitted to Civil Service.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

The Police Department continues to combat auto thefts and auto burglaries. Commencing this week, a task force was established to target high impact locations to prevent, arrest and file charges related to these crimes.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Library Services

Nearly 6,000 children and teens participated in the Library's 2005 Summer Reading Club, *Super Readers = Super Heroes: Unleash the Power*. Elementary age children read for more than 14,000 hours, teens read and reviewed more than 1,000 books, and 866 young people completed the highest level of participation - reading every day during the six-week program. Currently on display at the Main Library, Plaza Level, are READ posters featuring some of the 2005 Summer Reading Club participants and their favorite books. The annual reading program is sponsored by many area businesses, the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, and the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

Long Beach Gas customers are encouraged to schedule furnace pilot relighting appointments to save time and avoid inconvenience before the winter season arrives. Residents and businesses that delay until the cold season hits can expect extended waits for this service. Appointments can be made by calling 570.5700, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or through the Long Beach Gas and Oil Department website at www.lbenergy.org.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On October 15, approximately 400 students from Poly High School and Washington Middle School participated in the national *Make A Difference Day*, a clean-up event that was held in the Washington Middle School neighborhood. The students collected 40 tons of trash and dumped items from the streets and alleys between PCH to Anaheim, and Long Beach Blvd. to Magnolia in less than three hours. Staff from the Central and Washington Middle School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Areas coordinated with neighborhood groups and school personnel to organize the event. The Century Club of Long Beach donated food for lunch, the Long Beach Fire Department provided the grill, the Long Beach Police Department provided support for the event and Universal Care donated t-shirts for all the volunteers.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On October 18, staff from the Anaheim Street Community Police Center organized a special event to honor the police officers, business owners and community volunteers who support community safety efforts in the MacArthur Park Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area. This neighborhood borders the South, East and West Divisions of the Police Department. Officers from all three divisions were honored for their commitment to the safety of the residents in this neighborhood. Several business owners and community volunteers were also recognized for their ongoing support of events and activities at the Police Center and in the neighborhood. More than 40 individuals attended the celebration including the members of the 7th Street Community Police Center Board.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

A new driveway access was installed at the North Long Beach Community Garden.

Demolition is underway to construct new median islands on Artesia Blvd.

Several improvements are being made to Blair Field stadium. The glass is being replaced in all the windows, the ticket booth brick veneer is 50 percent complete, the dugout steps are complete, and the entry concrete colors have been selected.

Renovation work is continuing on Silverado Park pool. The skylight framing is completed, 50 percent of the T-bar ceiling is installed, framing and rough plumbing continues, and HVAC ductwork is underway.

The perimeter block wall is complete at Grace Park, on Plymouth St. and Elm Ave., and demolition and rough grading is complete for the site's community garden.

The Department submitted a grant to the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Foundation for \$50,000, for the renovation of the arbors on either side of the Recreation Park band shell.

The Department submitted a grant to the California Resources Agency for \$6 million in Proposition 50 funds, for the construction of the DeForest Wetlands.

Library Services

The Long Beach Jaycees have teamed up with the Long Beach Public Library to start a Book Club. Meetings will be held at the Main Library and topics will be mainly business related. The Book Club is open to any member of the Jaycees. This is a direct result of the partnerships established last year while the Library was working on on a State Library Small Business grant.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Public, Works, Environmental Services Bureau

A Lunch with a Lizard educational program was launched for southland educators at the Aquarium of the Pacific on October 19. The program is part of the Bureau's comprehensive Litter Abatement Program specifically targeted towards elementary school children. City staff reached approximately 500 Long Beach teachers with materials about how the Lizard can visit their school and provide educational programs on the hazards of littering and the benefits of maintaining a clean environment.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Long Beach 2005 Marathon, with 15,000 runners, was held citywide on October 16.

Shipwreck 2005, with an overall expected attendance of 70,000, opened October 7 at the Queen Mary and will continue through October 31.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau (continued)

CBS Productions, with a cast and a crew of 80, filmed a TV production "CSI Miami" in Rainbow Lagoon on October 17.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Marine Bureau

The City received approximately \$3,500 at an October 15 auction for impounded and abandoned vessels.

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

From October 9 through October 15, bureau staff completed a total of 3,102 service calls. This total included 865 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 696 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,333 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 208 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 385 emergency phone calls that resulted in 133 emergency orders being sent out

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570-5160

La Perla Ave.	El Mirador Ave. to El Cedral St.
College Circle	Atherton frontage full circle
Keynote St.	Rutgers Ave. to Bellflower frontage
Maine Ave.	Spring St. to 31st St.
Freeland St.	California St. to Cerritos Ave.
Scott St.	Rahn Ave. to Long Beach Blvd.
Shipway Ave.	Los Santos Dr. to Point North of Los Santos Dr.
Orange Ave.	11th street to point North of 11th St.
17th St.	Long Beach Blvd. to Linden Ave.
Freeman Ave.	8th St. to 10th St.
Eucalyptus Ave.	20th St. to Hill St.

Estimated completion: October 2005

Anaheim St.	Alamitos Ave to St. Louis Ave.
Clark Ave.	Spring St. to Wardlow Rd.

Estimated Completion: November 2005

Del Amo Blvd.	Los Angeles River to Long Beach Blvd.
Artesia Blvd.	West of Long Beach Blvd. to Harbor St.
Atlantic Ave.	North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.
Cherry Ave.	North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.
Artesia Blvd.	East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

Estimated Completion: December 2005

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Water, Alley Service Lateral Conversion

Contact: 570. 2326

Cedar Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Chestnut Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Pasadena Ave. E. Burnett St. to Pacific Electric Railroad

Linden Ave. E. Burnett St. to 25th Way

Estimated Completion: April 2006

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
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City Manager Department Heads
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